

State of Connecticut

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF EDUCATION

OF THE BLIND.

FOR THE

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1899 & 1900.

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PUBLIC DOCUMENT No. 35.

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SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OF THE BLIND.

To His Excellency, George E. Lounsbury, Governor, State of Connecticut.

SIR:—

I have the honor to submit herewith the Six Annual Report of the State Board of Education of the Blind.

During the fiscal year ending Sept. 30th, 1899, the number of State pupils coming under the care and supervision of the State Board of Education of the Blind was sixty-one. Of this number, nineteen attended the Perkins Institution at South Boston, Mass., twenty-three were at the Kindergarten and nineteen at the Industrial Home.

Concerning the pupils at the Perkins Institute, the Director of that Institution reports the attendance of eleven boys and eight girls. He recommends the continuance of all but one pupil, and especially urges the retention of Miss Julia Roeske, of Hartford, Conn., of whom he speaks as follows: "Julia M. Roeske, of Hartford, is doing excellent work in the study of the pipe organ and of other branches in an advanced course of music, and we shall be in readiness to bear our share of the necessary expense and help her to graduate from the New England Conservatory of Music if her name is retained on your list of State beneficiaries."

Especial mention is made of this pupil in this connection owing to the length of time she has attended the Boston Institution, which has exceeded the time accorded to any other pupil heretofore reported. This Board being desirous to carry out the policy adopted by the State to fit pupils by their training to become self-sustaining, after careful consideration of the case in question, decided to extend the term of instruction one year, at the end of which time the case will be again considered.

A rule was adopted by this Board "that hereafter all pupils attending the Perkins Institution, who were not advanced in the regular stages of progress from year to year, should be specially reported; the reason of their falling behind their classes given, and the cases of all such pupils separately considered.

INDUSTRIAL HOME.

Of the nineteen State pupils under instruction at the Industrial Home, two have finished their course of instruction and have started in business for themselves, manufacturing brooms. Four are receiving instruction in piano-tuning; five in broom-making; one young woman has married and gone to live in another State; one young man has failed to return, and six young women are continued under instruction in basket making and in the printing department.

There were at the Industrial Home at the beginning of the new year including State pupils in attendance, thirty-one blind persons engaged in the various industries there carried on. Of this number, fifteen have received instruction in type-writing, mathematics and spelling, with view of preparing them to manage their own business affairs when they shall have left the Institution.

The study of music is also followed by a number of the pupils and the industries of chair-caning and mattress-making are carried on to the extent supported by the patronage coming from the citizens of Hartford.

The new industry established for the blind, viz., the printing department, promises to be of the utmost importance as a means of furnishing employment to young blind women, there being no other mechanical pursuit which affords so much encouragement to us and which promises of such development for the future.

It is thought best to mention at this juncture, for the information of your Excellency and the General Assembly, the difference in the burdens assumed by the Connecticut Institution and those institutions outside of our State to which pupils are sent. For example, this State is required to pay the same amount per capita for pupils attending outside institutions from the 20th of September to about June 20th, which the Home Institution receives for the maintenance and care of many of the schoolmates for the entire year, as a small percentage of the pupils in the Home Institution have homes to go to during the long summer vacation. Also, in a number of instances, our Institution receives and cares for pupils for the summer months, for whom the entire allowance made by the State for these pupils is paid to the Perkins Institute for the Blind.

KINDERGARTEN.

Of the twenty-three children at the Kindergarten, two are absent the greater part of the year owing to the failure of their parents to comply with the rule requiring the continuous attendance of State pupils when not prevented by illness or other equally satisfactory cause. We think it desirable to mention, in this connection, the provision of law available to enforce this requirement. It is provided in the act creating this Board "that blind children in the custody of parents or guardians who neglect or refuse to comply with the requirements of law providing for their instruction, may upon order of the Probate Court be placed under guardianship and in the custody of this Board."

This Board, since its creation has only twice been obliged to enforce this provision of law, preferring in all cases to exhaust every other means of securing the attendance of such children before resorting to this extreme measure; and your Excellency has several times been called upon to aid the members of this Board in its endeavor to secure the attendance of pupils in cases where parents have failed to realize the importance of complying with the requirements of this Board respecting the uninterrupted instruction of State pupils. The general health of the children at the Kindergarten has been excellent. The absence of the usual percentage of cases of illness where such a number of children are assembled, being considered remarkable.

Regarding the progress made by these pupils, their teachers report most gratifying results with the exception of two backward children who are being given special training and whose cases were separately considered at the last meeting of this Board.

Two pupils were transferred from the primary department of the Kindergarten to the Industrial Home, for the ensuing year, it being the judgment of their teachers that this course was preferable to any other.

FINANCES.

Your Excellency and the general Assembly are also reminded that the last General Assembly provided, by an appropriation of \$15,000, for the payment of the debts incurred by the Home Institution. That these debts had been incurred by authority of the General Assembly of 1895, to provide for the necessary buildings and equipment to carry out the rules and plans adopted by this Board, for the instruction of the adult blind. That they were due and payable in January of 1897, and that their payment was deferred by the failure of the General Assembly of that year to make an appropriation therefor, and that the General Assembly of 1899 made no provision for the payment of the interest which accrued in consequence of the deferred pay-

ment of these obligations. Hence, the Home Institution has been compelled to assume and carry the burden thus imposed.

The establishment of the piano-tuning department, making provision for removing the broom manufacturing department from Colchester to this city, the purchase of machinery made necessary by this change, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee on Appropriations, and the purchase of a new power paper-cutter made necessary by the wearing out and breaking down of the second hand cutter used in the printing department has made the expenditure of \$1,554.00 absolutely unavoidable, and the cutting off of the income from the concerts, from which in past years from \$1,000 to \$4,000 per year was realized, presents a problem still to be solved by those having the interests and welfare of the Institution at heart.

A bequest of \$1,000, however, from Ellen Berry, of Watertown, Mass., which was bequeathed through the interest created in our work by the visit of our concert company to that town, will, as we are informed by the Executor, be available in about a year from this writing.

The following is a statement of the receipts and disbursements of the Connecticut Institute and Industrial Home for the Blind for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1899.

Respectfully submitted,

F. E. CLEVELAND, Sec'y.



STATEMENT.

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1899.

To balance on hand Oct. 1, 1898,	\$ 89.10
“ cash from Treasurer (State Receipts)	7,047.00
“ “ “ Donations and Unclassified Sources	191.06
“ “ “ Temporary Loans,	2,873.00
“ “ “ Store and Workshops,	2,839.80
“ “ “ Printing Department,	802.49
“ “ “ Property,	315.47
“ “ “ Concert,	2,420.78
“ “ “ Current expenses,	678.16
“ “ “ State	2.20
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	\$17,259.06

CONTRA.

By paid on acct. Temporary Loans,	\$ 2,383.88
“ “ “ “ Store and Workshops,	2,746.37
“ “ “ “ Printing Dept.,	562.71
“ “ “ “ Property,	1,591.48
“ “ “ “ Concert,	1,601.21
“ “ “ “ Salaries and Wages,	3,832.00
“ “ “ “ Current Expenses,	4,208.25
“ “ “ “ State,	189.00
“ balance on hand Sept. 30, 1899,	144.16
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	\$17,259.06

KINDERGARTEN ACCOUNT.

MRS. H. L. OLMSTED, ASST. TREAS., YEAR ENDING SEPT. 30, 1899.

To cash Balance on hand Sept. 30, 1898,	\$ 599.32
" " from contributions etc.,	2,577.46
" " " State Rhode Island (pupil),	300.00
" " " City of Derby,	71.49
" " " Sundries,	18.15
" " " Treasury (State money),	6,120.00
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	\$9,686.42

CONTRA.

By cash Electric light, Telephone, Ice,	\$ 843.92
" " Salaries and service,	4,375.50
" " Provisions,	2,027.74
" " Coal,	99.00
" " Water,	73.00
" " House furnishings and repairs,	367.85
" " Insurance,	32.00
" " Interest on mortgage, 6 mos. July 1899,	335.00
" " Property,	828.22
" " Returned to Treasurer,	100.00
" " Balance on hand Sept. 30, 1899,	604.19
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	\$9,686.42

MRS. H. L. OLMSTED, ASST. TREAS., IN ACCOUNT WITH CONN. INSTITUTE
AND INDUSTRIAL HOME FOR THE BLIND.

To cash from Contributions,	\$ 654.00	
“ “ Sale of Baskets, etc.,	46.35	
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		\$700.35
CONTRA.		
By paid Salaries and Services,	\$ 577.67	
“ “ other Current expenses	120.65	
“ “ Balance on hand	2.03	
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		\$700.35

HARTFORD, CONN., October 21, 1899.

This certifies that we have examined the accounts of the Connecticut Industrial Home for the Blind, for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1899, compared the vouchers and find them correct. The balance in the hands of the clerk and in the bank at the end of the year was \$144.16.

D. WARD NORTHROP,	} Auditors of Public Accounts.
WALTER A. RILEY.	

State of Connecticut
PUBLIC DOCUMENT No. 35.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE BLIND,
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STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1899 & 1900.

PRESS OF
INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND
336 WETHERSFIELD AVE., HARTFORD

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OF THE BLIND.

To His Excellency, George E. Lounsbury, Governor, State of Connecticut.

SIR:—

Every person who asserts a truth which is opposed to the commonly accepted theory and settled belief of the world, assumes the burden of proving and maintaining the correctness of his assertion. There appears to be a law which makes it necessary for every upward and progressive step taken in the cause of humanity to stand the test of the most persistent, unreasoning and bitter opposition. This is true even when the proposition is susceptible of the plainest demonstration and when popular error and prejudice are defeated in every encounter. There are always relations in life which will be affected by the adoption of a new theory.

The pride of opinion on the part of those heretofore commonly accepted as authority on the questions presented for consideration must be encountered. The self-interest of persons holding positions of profit and honor, under the regime of error, inevitably provokes untiring resistance to every onward step, and a position once gained is held only by the most vigilant and active measures of defense. It matters not though the cause be that of a class whose condition in life excites the greatest commiseration and sympathy; the rule is not relaxed even when the new theory advanced claims to be able to rescue this class from their unhappy condition.

Not many years ago it was common in dealing with the insane, to chain them with an iron collar about their necks to the wall of a narrow, cold and comfortless cell, and by this treatment to goad them to violent raving. To-day, thousands of the insane, comfortably cared for, are permitted such

liberties that they are enabled to wander about beautiful grounds, enjoying warmth and sunshine, enter concert halls provided for their entertainment, and thus become so docile in their behavior that it is difficult to believe them insane ; and yet the hopes of the promoters of this change in the treatment of the insane were only realized after many years of determined and most disheartening opposition.

Ninety years ago the deaf were believed to be in as hopeless a condition in life as are the imbeciles of to-day. Now they go forth from institutions of learning equipped to assume the responsibilities of life, and any able-bodied deaf person attempting to assume the role of a mendicant, on account of his limitation, or who would be content to be supported in idleness by relatives or friends, would find neither an indulgent public nor friends willing to be thus imposed upon. In the memory of many now living, the common school system, now considered the very foundation of society, was the object of most bitter and persistent attacks, and only succeeded in establishing its right to existence by the most patient and determined efforts on the part of its advocates.

Witness the enormous cost in blood and treasure which accompanied the abolition of slavery ! How many years ago was it that almost every occupation by which women might maintain themselves was closed to them ? With what opposition and derision were their demands for co-education met ?

Twenty-eight years ago the writer was confronted by a condition and a theory. The condition was a total loss of sight ; the theory was, that a blind person was necessarily helpless and hopelessly dependent. The condition remains, but the theory, so far as he himself is concerned, has been effectually exploded. Eight years ago he was charged, as a public servant of his native state, with the duty of solving for others the problems which he had solved for himself. He entered upon those duties with the conviction that it was possible for every able-bodied blind person to so far overcome the disadvantage of this limitation as to be able to provide at least for his own support. Eight years of careful study of the conditions in life, and the various experiences of the blind in America, and the opportunities which his appointment by the General Government as a delegate to the World's Congress of the Educators of the Blind, afforded him, to visit the various institutions for the sightless in England, Scotland and France, have but served to strengthen this conviction.

We desire to submit a letter from a man who, while a private in the ranks, battling for his country, had been stricken blind by a bullet of the enemy. This man, when his comrades were carrying him from the field overheard them say, " Poor fellow, he will never see again ; he might better be dead." He replied, " Don't be too sure of that, boys, you may hear from

me yet." They did hear from him again as a doctor of divinity, filling the honorable post of Chaplain of the house of Representatives in the Congress of the United States.

The following is an extract from the communication referred to, from the Rev. Dr. Coudcu, addressed to the writer :

"It affords me more pleasure than I can express to know that you, with others in the State of Connecticut, have espoused the cause too long neglected, viz., that of widening the sphere of opportunities for the blind, which has for its object the elevation of that class to a larger field of usefulness and greater self-respect, by rendering them, like their seeing brothers and sisters, independent and self-sustaining ; the field is a wide one, and hitherto, for the most part, unexplored."

One of the first duties of the State is to utilize all its resources to the uplifting of humanity, by giving to each citizen or child the best education and equipment for life and the struggles incident thereto, for maintenance, through honest endeavor and industry, whatever the calling may be. It is true that the blind are handicapped in the struggle for existence, but the time has come when those blessed with the five senses should realize that there are latent forces which by education and practice may be brought into use, enabling the unfortunate to compete successfully with their more fortunate fellows. In this age of mechanism, when the forces of nature are made to do the work of brawn, the difficulties would seem well-nigh insurmountable, especially to those unacquainted with the resources of the blind ; but give them the opportunity, and they will solve the problem beyond peradventure. If time permitted, cases might be cited which would afford the strongest evidence in proof of our assertion.

Subsequently, Dr. Couden wrote the following letter to Commissioner of Charities Lewis, of Washington, D. C.:

December, 20, 1899.

"MR. LEWIS, Commissioner of Charities, Washington, D. C.,

DEAR SIR :—It gives me great pleasure to endorse Mr. F. E. Cleaveland in the plan which he has in view for the blind of the District ; the plan is feasible and will, if put into practice under the proper authorities, and managed up to a certain point by educated and intelligent blind people, prove all that he claims for it.

He will undoubtedly cite kindred Institutions which are doing for others exactly what he would do for the blind of the District.

I should be glad to talk with you myself upon this subject at any time and would be glad to render assistance whenever I can, to promote this most laudable enterprise, which, as I understand it, is to help the blind help themselves.

Respectfully yours,

H. N. COUDEN."

During the past twenty-five years of an active business life, we have met and become acquainted with many energetic, progressive and successful blind men.

During the past eight years we have met and compared notes with the most eminent blind men in Europe and America, but we know of no man better qualified to judge of the needs of the adult blind, or what it is possible for them to accomplish, than Dr. Conden. When he was stricken blind he was a mere private fighting in the ranks to uphold the Union. His first attempt to master a trade was successful. From a journeyman he became a manufacturer, then a student in college, and afterwards of theology; then a preacher of the Gospel, in charge of a New England parish, and finally the incumbent of the honorable post which he now holds in the Congress of the United States.

If called upon to point out the greatest obstacle to the success of the blind, judging from our own experience and from what every successful blind person we have met has said, we should point out the erroneous opinion entertained by the public, of the extent and importance of the limitation of blindness, as being responsible for the failure of the blind to overcome the disadvantages of this limitation, and take their place among the bread-winners of the world.

The exaggeration of the limitation of blindness, in the mind of the world, is so great that mothers have suffered their children to lie in the cradle until they were five or six years of age, with no opportunity to develop their other powers. Parents and public officials have allowed blind children to go uninstructed, so that there are many instances where they have reached adult years with their minds wholly undeveloped. The adult blind, though graduates of institutions, and well fitted to follow some useful calling, could their education be supplemented by even a few months of special training, have been suffered to idle away their lives in dependence upon friends, or as inmates of alms-houses. Those who have become blind by accident, after they have reached adult years, have been led to believe that they were necessarily, hopelessly dependent, and have sooner or later found their way into poor-houses, or have become mendicants, thus confirming the public in their idea of the helplessness of the blind. Pursuing this subject, we can do no better than adopt the language of a letter from the writer to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, which is as follows :

GENTLEMEN :

My attention has been called to a letter from the Superintendent of Charities to the Editor of the *Washington Post*, which appeared in its issue of February 19th, and I am much gratified to see the progress he has made

towards grasping the correct idea of the position taken by intelligent blind people who, from years of contact with the world, have been able to bring to a thoughtful consideration of the problems presented to the sightless, a knowledge born of experience. In the communication referred to, in which he takes exception to the published abstract of his report, he makes use of the following language :

'Blind persons of the better class are everywhere clamoring for the correction of the exaggerated notion of their helplessness. They are not asking for charity. What they want is a fair recognition of their abilities, and a chance to work out their own independence.'

I recall the interview which I had with the Superintendent of Charities one evening, on the occasion of his visit to my office, at which time he did me the honor to confer with me concerning the wisdom of the legislation proposed by House Resolution No. 4347. At the close of the interview he stated it to be his intention to make a careful study of the situation, and that he would endeavor to obtain information from every source that would throw light upon the problem.

I have waited with considerable anxiety for his conclusions. The reason for this anxiety will be apparent when I state that I knew he would find a wide difference existing between the opinions of sighted persons holding positions which give color to their claim to be authority on the subject, and the opinions entertained by the educated and successful blind.

It is therefore with much gratification that I note the language employed by him in the communication above cited, and that after having given the subject a careful study, and having read the theories and opinions of sighted persons claiming to be authority on the subject, he has been able to grasp so correct an idea of the real needs of the adult blind. I specify the adult blind, because the institutions now existing for the education of blind children, so far as the scope of their work extends, are accomplishing excellent results. It is therefore with the adult blind and their chances in life that we have to deal, and in what follows, I, as their advocate, desire to submit to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia the principal reasons why I believe the efforts of the American Association to Promote the Education and Employment of the Blind should be seconded ; First, by the people of the District of Columbia, and finally by Congress.

Therefore, Mr. Commissioner, let us suppose, for the sake of the argument, that you are totally and permanently blind. Would you thereby become altogether a different person, a person whose judgment, motives and character would become so changed that you would need to have some person with sight to think, act and decide for you upon all matters? Are you able to discover now any impairment of the powers of the mind? Do you not recall that many times in your life, when your mind was occupied in the solution of some difficult problem, and you desired to reason closely, you have closed the natural eyes in order that you might reason more clearly and see more plainly, with the eyes of the mind? Do you perceive any reason why, even if you were compelled to walk through life thus handicapped, you would not be as capable of exercising sound judgment in the discharge of the duties of the office you now hold? In fact, can you discover any reason why you could not continue to hold the office of Commissioner, and, making use

of the eyes of others, as men use spectacles, be as serviceable and valuable a public servant as you now are? Will you not agree with me that the office you now hold is an office the incumbent of which should be elected because of his qualities of mind? Will you not go one step further and agree that any office, occupation or position where probity and superior powers of the mind are the chief requisites, could be filled by a person possessing these qualifications, even though he be blind? Do you not recall that Mr. Fawcett, Postmaster General under Gladstone, who was one of the most popular and successful postmasters general England ever had, was a blind man? Turn with me to the Encyclopedia and read the life of the celebrated naturalist, Huber, who is still a leading authority. Let us have his testimony in his own words, on the ability of the sightless to overcome the disadvantages of the loss of sight. We quote his language to a friend who could see: 'I am much more certain of what I declare to the world than you are, for you publish what your own eyes only have seen, while I take the mean among many witnesses.'

Entering the domain of poetry and history, it is hardly necessary to ask you to recall that Homer completed the 'Iliad' and composed the 'Odyssey' after he became blind. That it was not until after Milton was turned from his political career by his becoming blind that he wrote 'Paradise Lost,' and that our own Prescott, author of 'Ferdinand and Isabella,' 'Conquest of Mexico' and 'Conquest of Peru,' gathered his material and produced these valuable contributions to history after losing his sight.

We are living in an age of wonderful achievements of the mind, and the triumph of inventions. But ask of any scientist or inventor whether he cannot trace much of his success to the quiet hour when, with the head upon the pillow and the eyes closed, he has found greater power to see clearly with the eye of the mind? Did you ever realize that it is to the sense of hearing, and not to the sense of sight, that we are indebted for the invention of the telegraph and telephone, and that a seeing man, when connected by telephone with the business world, in this relation is no better off than a blind man would be?

Blind men, as clergymen, have attained the greatest eminence, and as lawyers and physicians have met with remarkable success. William E. Cramer, of Milwaukee, as a journalist, and at one time editor of the 'Albany Argus,' takes rank among the distinguished men in that vocation in this country. How many are aware that Herreshoff, the designer and builder of the Defender and Columbia, is a blind man? Blind men have successfully engaged in printing, book-binding, telegraphy, farming and mining, type-writing, stenography, crystal cutting, contracting and building, to say nothing of the well-known avocations such as broom-making, chair-caning and mattress making. As musicians, who stands higher than David Wood, of Philadelphia, and Dr. Bischoff, of Washington, D. C.?

With so many examples of achievements of the blind, and a thousand more instances that might be cited, where blind men have overcome all obstacles and have carved out for themselves a successful professional or business career, how is it, you ask, that ninety-nine out of every hundred are dependent either upon friends or the public, and why is it that the blind men most in evidence are mendicants or the inmates of alms-houses?

Dr. M., an eminent divine, relates that while standing on the sidewalk in Philadelphia, waiting for a friend to join him, he took off his silk hat to cool his head, and a passer-by, noticing that he was blind, dropped a nickel into it. His intellectual face and general appearance of refinement and culture were no protection against his being taken for a street beggar.

Mr. Fawcett, when a member of Gladstone's Cabinet, calling on an eminent lawyer, took it for granted that the lawyer's clerk knew him, and neglected to send in his card. He overheard the clerk say to his employer that a blind man wished to see him. The reply was, 'Give him a shilling and tell him I am too busy.' The embarrassment of the lawyer when the clerk returned with the card of the visitor, a moment later, and the profusion of apologies which followed, may be readily imagined.

Dr. E. Park Lewis, of the New York Institute; Maurice de la Sizaranne, author of the leading authority on work for the adult blind in France; Dr. F. J. Campbell, at the head of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, in England; and Prof. C. F. Fraser, Director of the Canadian Institution for the Blind, at Halifax, which institution is the most successful in the training of blind people to become self-sustaining, of any in America, all agree that the blind and the public must be impressed that the powers of the sightless are worth developing; that the obligations of the public are not fulfilled by the giving of alms. It is important, say these gentlemen, three of whom are themselves blind, that training schools for the adults should be established and an opportunity for employment afforded.

Let every blind child come to know that he is expected by his parents, his friends, and the public to prepare himself to take his place among the workers in the world; let it become thoroughly understood by the people everywhere that blindness is no excuse for a life of idleness and mendicancy, and that self-respect, independence of thought and action may be preserved, even though the sight be lost, and you will make blindness a thousand times easier to bear. Empty your alms-houses of their blind inmates, and hand down to posterity a blessing to those whose fate it shall be to walk in darkness in the centuries to come.

I learn that over a half million dollars has been expended by Congress in aid of the grand and noble work for the deaf; that they are leaving Gallaudet College to take their places as respected and honored citizens in all parts of the land. I find no deaf beggars on the streets of Washington, and yet I have only to look back to the time when the illustrious father of your honored citizen, Dr. Edward Miner Gallaudet, began his work to educate and elevate the deaf mutes of America, to find that their lot was as unenviable and their condition as pitiable as that of the majority of the blind to-day. Is it strange, then, that I should indulge the thought that if Dr. Gallaudet had been a blind man, and laboring in the interests of the blind, there would not be forty blind men begging in the streets of the Capital City, in the daily view of representative people from all parts of the United States, and saying by their presence and condition, 'We are the typical blind. Blindness is indeed a pitiable, hopeless and helpless condition and all you can do for us is to give us alms, that we may live on, and clog the wheels of progress.'

Do they not blast the hopes and aspirations of those who seek to rend the pall that hangs over the land, in order that the light of intelligence may dispel the unfortunate misconception of the seeing world?

As space at my disposal will not permit me to extend this communication, let me close by calling your attention to the condition of the adult blind of the District of Columbia, which speaks with a more eloquent tongue than I possess, and add that the Association I represent craves the opportunity to demonstrate the possibility of placing every able-bodied adult blind person in the District in a way to become self-sustaining, and by so doing to furnish an object lesson to the Representatives of the several States that will not fail to arouse a spirit of emulation on the part of the State governments.

Praying that I may have the support of the philanthropic people of the district until Congress can be made to see its plain duty, I remain, etc.

In June, of the year 1900, a meeting of the educated and progressive blind people of New England, as guests of the Alumni of the Perkins Institution, was held at the United States Hotel in Boston, and was addressed by Dr. Conden and many others whose success in life had qualified them to speak from knowledge gained by experience.

Shortly after this conference, the writer received the following communication :

“RESOLVED: That this Association views with great gratification and approval the establishment of an Institution for the training of the adult blind at Washington, D. C., under the fostering care of the National Government, and we are especially gratified with the article of association of this Institution which provides that at least three of its nine trustees shall be chosen from the experienced and progressive blind.

RESOLVED: That this resolution be spread upon the records of the Alumni Association, and that a copy be transmitted to Mr. F. E. Cleaveland, at Hartford.

JOEL W. SMITH,
Master of Ceremonies.

United States Hotel, Boston, June 21st, 1900.”

Thus we have seen how those who may be regarded as experts look upon the work undertaken in behalf of the adult blind in Connecticut, and at the National Capital.

Let us see now how this movement is regarded by prominent citizens of the state and country, and by persons who have had their attention directed to it, and whose opportunities for judging have enabled them to speak with far greater knowledge than the public possesses.

For example, the Rev. Joseph H. Twichell, who for eight years has been President of the Advisory Board of the Connecticut Institute and Industrial Home for the Blind, writes as follows :

“I desire to testify that as chairman for a number of years of the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut Institute and Industrial Home for the Blind, and as a member of the Advisory Board, I, in common with all my colleagues, am

so entirely convinced by proofs, that it seems to me everybody must accept, that it is entirely practicable to rescue the blind as a class from the pathetic condition of dependence on public or private charity, and render them all self-supporting members of the community."

Writing to Bishop Satterlee, of Washington, D. C., Dr. George Williamson Smith, President of Trinity College, speaking of the work for the blind in the Industrial Home at Hartford, says: "What has been accomplished here borders on the marvellous."

Mr. Job Williams, Director of the American School for the Deaf at Hartford, writes, concerning the work for the blind in Connecticut, "Much has been done to advance the interests of the blind in this State, and in the way of providing employment for the adult blind, and fitting them for self-support. He (referring to the President of the Institution) has done a unique work."

The following is a letter from General Joseph R. Hawley:

"U. S. SENATE, WASHINGTON, D. C., June 1, 1900.

DEAR MR. CLEVELAND:

I am glad to congratulate you upon your success thus far. I shall try to attend the first meeting of the Trustees of the Columbia Polytechnic Institute for the Blind, and think I can easily do so.

Very truly yours,

J. R. HAWLEY."

The success referred to in the foregoing letter from General Hawley, relates to the work at the National Capital.

At a convention of the educators of the blind of the United States and Canada, in July, 1898, the writer was appointed chairman of a committee to wait upon Congress, and promote legislation which that body considered desirable. The condition of the blind people of Washington being inquired into, by him, taken in connection with the argument advanced to the last General Assembly of this State by the Commission on Retrenchment and Reform, upon which they based their recommendation that the work attempted for the adult blind in this State be abandoned, and the Board of Education for the Blind be abolished, led the writer to put forth every effort to break the force of this argument. The argument referred to was a statement on the part of the Commission that they had investigated and learned what is being done for the blind in New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. "The provisions for adult blind," they say, "seem to be very meagre in every state we have mentioned with the exception of Pennsylvania." Therefore, it was reasoned, that because other states were not doing what Pennsylvania and Connecticut were doing for the blind, Connecticut would be justified in refusing to perform its duty to this class of its citizens. Although the argument failed to accomplish the purpose of the Commission,

at the time it was offered, the writer feared that unless something could be done to give new impetus to the work for the adult blind, that would improve their chances in life throughout the country, this argument, reinforced by the influence of those interested in heading off the movement, might, at any time, result in action being taken by the Legislature of Connecticut abandoning all progressive steps in this direction.

No better place could be selected to continue the work for the adult blind, so far advanced in our own State, than the National Capitol; accordingly the writer, for the past two years, has devoted all the time at his disposal, consistent with the faithful performance of his duties in his own State, to accomplishing this object.

The following letter from the President of the United States, together with the article which appeared in the *Hartford Courant*, May 16th, 1900, a reprint of which is here furnished, shows what has thus far been accomplished :

"EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, D. C.,
Jan. 8, 1900. }

F. E. Cleaveland, Pres., etc.

MY DEAR SIR:—I have been much interested in reading of the work for the promotion of the education and employment of the blind which your Association has undertaken, and am glad to have the opportunity of expressing my hearty approval and cordial best wishes for the abundant success of any movement so laudable.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM MCKINLEY."

"TRAINING THE BLIND."

WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY MR. CLEAVELAND IN WASHINGTON.

"F. E. Cleaveland has returned from Washington where through the efforts of himself and others a bill has been put through Congress for the establishment of an industrial school for the adult blind of the District of Columbia. It is to be known as the Columbia Polytechnic Institute for the Blind, and the bill appropriates \$5,000 for the first year's expenses.

In the articles of association it is provided that there shall always be on the board of trustees at least three blind men of the country, so that the interests of the blind who are instructed at the institution may be looked after from the view-point of the blind.

Following are the incorporators: The Rev. Dr. H. M. Couden, the blind chaplain of the House; Senator Joseph R. Hawley; Justice David J. Brewer, of the U. S. Supreme Court; J. W. Bischoff, the blind organist and composer, who has been organist for many years at Dr. Newman's church in

Washington; The Right Rev. Henry Y. Satterlee, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Washington; Frank E. Cleaveland, the blind lawyer of Hartford; the Rev. James E. Mackin, of the Roman Catholic Church in Washington; E. S. Parker, President of the National Bank and Trust Company; Judge J. M. Wilson, a prominent lawyer of the District; Lieutenant Commander Fred A. Miller, U. S. N.; H. F. Kauffman, principal owner of the *Washington Star*; Beriah Wilkins, principal owner of the *Washington Post*; the Rev. Richard P. Williams, Rector of Trinity Church; the Rev. Alexander McK. Smith, Rector of St. John's Church; Colonel Frank S. Colton, U. S. A., retired; Dr. S. O. Ritchie, and H. R. W. Miles."

At the present writing, a Golding Job printing press, run by an electric motor, is being operated daily in the beautiful new Congressional Library, by one of the former pupils of the Connecticut Institute for the Blind. Members of Congress and prominent personages from all parts of the country are daily witnessing this exhibition, and an interest has been awakened throughout the city which promises well for the future. The police department no longer permit blind persons to beg upon the streets, and there is every indication that an institution for the instruction and employment of the adult blind will be erected, thus creating an object lesson which, like a lamp set on a hill, will shed rays of light along the pathway of the thousands of blind throughout the country, whose prayers for an opportunity to make the most of their lives are as yet unanswered.

Thirty years ago, one of the most enthusiastic, energetic and persevering blind men whom America has produced, made a determined effort to awaken an interest in Congress, in the future welfare of the blind, and attempted to establish a Normal College in the District of Columbia; but there were those at the head of institutions for the blind who assumed to know more of what was needed by the sightless, whose positions lent color to their claims. The seeing world had not advanced far enough to listen with any degree of patience to what a blind man had to offer in behalf of his fellows. As a consequence, more than a quarter of a century has been lost to this country of the services of one pre-eminently qualified to take the lead in this important work. I refer to Dr. F. J. Campbell, the founder and present head of the Royal Normal College of London, which easily ranks as the most successful institution in the world in fitting the blind to become self-sustaining, as the record shows that from 80 to 90 per cent. of the graduates of this institution are self-sustaining, and many of them are earning handsome incomes.

What Gallaudet College has done and is doing for the deaf of the United States, the Royal Normal College has done and is doing for the blind of Great Britain. Its influence is felt all over the kingdom. As a result, workshops for the adult blind may be found in every large city.

It was Dr. Campbell and the pupils from his institution, at the World's

Congress of the Educators of the Blind, who were accorded the highest honor, and when the writer listened to the round after round of applause which greeted the performances of these pupils, and to the address of Dr. Campbell, he was proud, first, of the just tribute which this ovation paid to the achievements of a blind man; and second, of the knowledge that, notwithstanding like Columbus, he was forced to leave his native country to obtain a hearing and recognition of his great worth, still he was an American, of whom the blind of America could justly feel proud.

I now desire to quote the words of this eminently successful blind man, in a paper prepared by him on the Education of the Blind:

"In the public mind blindness has been so long and closely associated with dependence and pauperism, that schools for the blind, even the most progressive, have been regarded hitherto as asylums, rather than educational establishments. The fact of being classed among dependents, and considered subjects of special charity, is not only a mortification, but a serious disadvantage; it leads to the workhouse. A great mistake in the training of the blind is the lack of an earnest effort to improve their social condition. Whenever pupils in institutions are treated and habitually spoken of as poor, indigent blind children, a feeling of semi-pauperism is fostered; and when the blind leave such institutions they become paupers in reality. In most countries free education has been provided for seeing children; but when instruction is given to the blind, it is still considered charity. In the United States free education is regarded as the corner-stone of the Republic; the public school system provides a good education alike for rich and poor, the seeing and the blind. But even in America the schools for the seeing are placed under the management of State Boards of Education, while corresponding schools for the blind, in common with asylums for the imbecile and insane, with work-houses and reformatories, are placed under Boards of State Charities. I rejoice that a more enlightened public opinion is working an important change, and already a few of the states have transferred the management of the schools for the blind from the Board of Charities to the Board of Education."

After a very full, interesting and instructive paper on the early training of the blind, which, as it relates to blind children, we do not think it necessary to quote, he closes as follows:

"The blind, whether educated for the church, trained as teachers, musicians, piano-forte tuners, or for any other trade or occupation, require assistance at the outset. They need help in finding suitable employment, recommendations for establishing a connection, pecuniary assistance in providing outfits of books, tools, instruments, etc., help in the selection and purchase of the best materials at the lowest wholesale rates, in the sale of their manufactured goods in the best markets, and, if overtaken by reverses, judicious and timely help toward a fresh start. This will furnish a grand field of labor for all branches of the national society. The sick and aged will also be moved to the sunny side of the hill and the blind beggar will disap-

pear from our streets and highways. The cry which went up from the beggars' post at the gates of Jericho, more than eighteen hundred years ago, still vibrates upon the ears and moves the hearts of men. Charities have been created, asylums, homes and schools have been established, but the blind as a class are still floating helplessly down the stream of pauperism. Ten, even hundreds of thousands of pounds are obtained for technical schools and colleges of music ; scholarships are multiplied even for the wealthy who have sight. All honor for those who are doing so much for the cause of education ! Shall less be done for the blind ? Shall we not lift up the weak hands and strengthen the feeble knees ? The blind plead for a thorough, comprehensive education, which will give them strong bodies, well disciplined minds and courageous souls. Then, and not till then, will the blind as a class become productive members of society. Therefore, I ask you to pass the following resolution :

RESOLVED : That the time has arrived when the blind should have a well-graded, practical, comprehensive course of instruction. That the training of the blind should not be conducted on a charitable basis, but form a part of the national system of education."

Not long since, in conversation with some of the successful blind of our own State, we heard them deploring the great loss which the cause had sustained in the death of that whole-souled and well-known philanthropist, Dr. Samuel G. Howe, who may be regarded as the founder of the Perkins Institution for the Blind, which was the first institution of its kind in America.

We now desire to call your Excellency's attention to the words of Dr. Howe, as we find them recorded in the annual report of that institution, published in 1849, concerning the great need of the identical work for the adult blind, since undertaken by the Connecticut Institution.

Speaking of the desirability of placing the blind upon the same footing with the seeing, so far as their education is concerned, so that they will be no more looked upon as objects of charity, than are the pupils of the common schools, he says :

"The consciousness of being a burden upon others, or an object of charity, should never be added to the grievous calamity of the sufferer's blindness. The appeal in his behalf should be to justice, and not to mere charity ; for it is an admitted truth with us that all have the right to an education at the hands of the State, and accordingly, schools adapted to their condition and wants are everywhere provided. But here is a whole class, who, by reason of blindness, cannot enter common schools, or be benefitted by common means of instruction. Shall they be shut out from a share in the public bounty because a heavy calamity is weighing them down ? Surely not !

If the State cannot teach them in common schools, let her provide special schools, and give them special instruction, without calling them charity scholars, any more than others. This is virtually the policy of Massachusetts, who, like a kind parent, provides schools and instruction for all, even the blind and the deaf mutes.

It is to be hoped that the liberal policy of Massachusetts will soon be imitated everywhere. Each state should, as far as may be, put blind children upon a level with other children in regard to the facilities for obtaining instruction, and do it, too, in such a way as not to wound their self-esteem by calling them charity scholars. Indeed, every scholar in a public school, in a certain sense, is a charity scholar, for no man, be his school tax ever so high, pays back to society a tithe, even, of the cost of his child's instruction, because that is the result of a vast outlay of capital, and an immense accumulation of experience through generations and ages of the past. The difference between what his son receives from the public bounty and what the blind son of his neighbor receives is only a difference of more or less; and why should the name of charity scholar be thrown solely upon the latter, and the burden of his infirmity be thus made greater? The cost of instructing the blind, involving as it does the necessity of an establishment into which they can be gathered and provided for, is necessarily great; but this is not the real difficulty in the way of setting up such institutions wherever needed, for ten times greater cost is borne by society without a murmur for the support of establishments of a different character, and which are not demanded by Christian and humane considerations, as is the instruction of the blind. Indeed, the means of support for all worthy institutions of beneficence will not be long wanting when people come to look upon it as the object and the duty of government to bless rather than to destroy. When all has been done that man can do, when love has exhausted its consolations, and art its contrivances and wealth its power, to make the lot of the blind a happy one, still it never will be coveted by those who can see.

We refer the Board to the report of the Director for a detailed account of the events of the year, and of the actual condition of the several departments. Especially would we recommend to its attention his remarks upon the necessity of increasing the facilities for giving employment to those of the blind who need it after their course of instruction is finished; and likewise upon the great desirableness of continuing the work of printing.

It is found by experience that often sufferers present themselves and ask earnestly for help and solace, and work, for whose case the institution was not originally intended, but who are totally unprovided for elsewhere, and whose appeal is so touching as to be irresistible; we mean those who are suddenly struck blind in early manhood, by accident or by disease. We think that the proportional number of those made blind by accident has increased of late years. Nature has so safely lodged the eye in a bony bed, and curiously fenced it round with sensitive guards, that it is safe from all the common injuries to which the body is exposed. But some of the modern inventions in mechanical arts expose the eyes of a workman to as great danger as any part of his body. Such, for instance, is the contrivance of blasting rocks with gunpowder, which is becoming very common with us. It is not a rare occurrence that a young, healthy and bright-eyed man is in an instant blinded for life. The condition of such persons is more deplorable than that of those born blind, who know not what darkness is, because they never knew what light is. But to the man who has lived in an atmosphere of light, whose existence has been, as it were, enlarged and multiplied by the vast range of visible objects which the sense of sight seems to give him for

his own, to incorporate, as it were with his very being, until light and life become one and the same,—to him there is something real, sensible and terrible in the darkness which suddenly covers him like a pall when his eyes are blasted. He is at first like one buried alive. All his thoughts, all his efforts, all his prayers are for deliverance from this thick gloom—for some means of struggling out of it and back into light again. He knew the world mainly by its visible beauties, his wife by her loving looks, his children by their rosy cheeks, his friends by their smiling faces; but these and all other things are to him suddenly eclipsed, and friends, children, wife, the world, are all lost, as it seems, forever. Hope, that cannot be killed outright, at first whispers that by some miraculous recovery of sight, all these lost treasures may yet be restored to him; and though the word of promise is broken to the ear, he finds it is kept to the hope, that these things are really restored to him, and that his intellectual and social relations with the world and with the objects of his affections may be maintained in all their intimacy and strength, in spite of blindness. As the needle points to the pole, by night as well as by day, so his love for relatives and friends still draws him to them, through the darkness that hides them from his sight. Little by little he becomes resigned; he even recovers his cheerfulness and his interest in life is reawakened; but soon his sky is clouded again by the discovery of his helplessness, and his dependence. The interest and the sympathy of others, so warmly excited at first by his terrible misfortune, gradually grow less, and if he has no parents to support him, he begins to be considered a burden. He has then before him the dreary prospect of a life of dependence upon relatives and friends, to be dragged on until they are weary of well-doing, or are dead; and beyond that lies the cheerless scene of an old age and a death-bed in the alms-house. Besides this, the rust of idleness soon begins to eat into his soul. He finds that it is not life merely to be alive and unemployed, and begins to pine for an occupation as much as he ever pined for recovery of his sight. He is not young enough to enter a school for the blind, and go through a course of study with the boys, but he is not too old to learn a trade and earn his own livelihood.

It is for the relief of such cases as the one thus described that further provision is necessary; and we recommend to the Board the suggestions of the Director respecting it."

We have said that the miserable condition of the blind was due to the unenlightenment of the seeing world and consequently to the ignorance of the blind themselves, as to what it was possible to accomplish without sight. As an illustration of how little assistance is needed to rescue an able-bodied intelligent person from the condition of despair, into which he is plunged by the loss of his sight, we wish to tell the story of Mr. Charles J. Leary, of Fall River, Mass., a former printer and book-binder.

Connected with our Industrial Home for the Blind at Hartford we have a printing and book-binding department. This department was established as the result of the efforts of the writer to find a suitable and remunerative employment for young women who, by the death of relatives and friends, have been left alone in the world.

The sad story of a cultivated and refined young woman who, when a mere child, an orphan, had entered the Perkins Institution for the Blind, stirred the writer to do his utmost to find some means of rescuing her and others similarly situated from a fate, the very contemplation of which, for a time, unsettled her reason.

Most of us can remember the happy occasion when either we ourselves, or near and dear friends, have walked proudly and hopefully out upon the platform to receive a well earned diploma, returning to be met with the congratulations and rejoicings of our parents and friends.

With high hopes did this blind girl look forward to that day, and when at last she held her diploma in her hand, she realized for the first time that she had no parents or friends to congratulate her or rejoice in her triumph. Then it slowly dawned upon her that this glad day was to end in the blackest night, for, on the morrow, she must leave the cultured home where during her childhood and maidenhood she had passed so many happy hours, and go out into the great wide world alone—and blind. Where was she to go? No one was willing to burden themselves with the support and care of a helpless blind girl. Shock followed shock until the day came when the last unbearable blow fell. It was the day when the selectmen of the town, from which she was sent, when a little girl, receiving back this charge upon the town, passed their sentence upon her. They were sorry, very sorry, but there was nothing else to do; she must become for the remainder of her life an inmate of the town poor-house.

Tramps, dissipated vagabonds and women who had soiled their own lives were to be her daily companions. The odors of a police station hung about the premises, and here, this girl, accustomed to cultivated and refined society, herself an accomplished pianist, must spend the rest of her days. It was from this fate that we sought to rescue her and her kind.

Determined to find an occupation which this young woman could follow, by which she could maintain herself in a comfortable Christian home, we sought out the occupations of girls who could see. In a large publishing house we found young women employed in printing, folding and binding pamphlets, and the like. We undertook to do the work they were doing and found that it could easily be done by the sense of touch, and though skeptical, at first, we succeeded in convincing those engaged in the work that it was not the sense of sight which they most employed, but that unconsciously, perhaps, what they were doing, they were doing mechanically, and that with a little practice they could do their work as well and as rapidly with their eyes closed.

The seeing world laughed and scoffed at the idea of the blind engaging in printing and book-binding, but the writer had heard and witnessed the skep-

ticism of the world too many times in his own life to be easily discouraged, and as a result, we have a well-ordered printing establishment, where a number of these blind women are employed.

One of our former pupils, as we have before stated, is feeding a power printing press which has been set up for the purposes of exhibition in the library of Congress, at Washington, where in the daily view of hundreds of visitors from all parts of the country, a girl who is totally blind is demonstrating the practicability of this occupation for the blind. We now invite the attention of the reader to the story of Mr. Leary as told in the *Inland Printer*.

"Probably there is no more striking instance of what can be accomplished by grit and insistent and ambitious courage, in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties, than is set forth in the case of Charles J. Leary, who conducts a job-printing establishment in Fall River, Mass.

Deprived as he is, of one of nature's most valued and necessary gifts—the sense of sight—yet he successfully carries on and conducts personally a printing establishment which is always busy, and which has the reputation of turning out work second to none of its class in the city. Leary entered the employ of Almy & Nilne, publishers of the *Daily News*, the oldest newspaper in Fall River, in April, 1864, at the age of thirteen years, and was in almost continuous service there until failing vision forced him to retire in March, 1897. He worked as an "all-around" man until 1879, when he was made foreman of the book and job department, and retained the position for eighteen years. His work in the office was of the finest description, and a good many specimens came in for honorable mention from the editor of *The Inland Printer*, of which Mr. Leary was and is a regular reader. No pen can picture and no language describe the despair and anguish of heart and soul during those dark hours of trial and despondency immediately following his loss of sight.

Mr. Leary, when he now talks of them feels perplexed as to why he did not break down in spirit and in courage, and give up the unequal battle with the vicissitudes of a cruel fate. One day, while in one of his saddened and despairing moods, two of his friends sought to encourage him by reference to a hopeful future. They were Miss Hughes and Miss McHale of Bristol, R. I., the former a sister of his wife. They began to tell him of the almost marvelous work of blind people done at a concert and entertainment some time before, at which they were present. The people referred to were the inmates of the Connecticut Industrial Home for the Blind, which was under the management of F. E. Cleaveland, a lawyer, blind himself, yet engaged in the regular practice of his profession.

Mr. Leary, after hearing the encouraging reports of the kindly disposed young women, had a letter written to Mr. Cleaveland, the outcome of which was that the latter invited the Fall River printer to enter the department for printing and book-binding.

Mr. Leary went to Connecticut with a friend, and with the intention of accepting the offer, but whether it was the sense of homesickness at the thought of being temporarily separated from the dear ones at home, or the

Spartan-like courage which has since marked his career, that actuated him, he soon returned. He says that he had been there but a few hours when he got to thinking over his case and arrived at the conclusion that if he could work at the good old trade in an institution, what was to hinder him from doing the same at home for the benefit of those dependent upon him, and where he might be able to accept and enjoy the comfort and companionship and affection they were so anxious to bestow upon him.

With the assistance of kind friends, two of the city's leading business men—and few men have more friends in Fall River than Mr. Leary—he fitted out a small room in the A. J. Borden building and started in to earn a living. His outfit consisted of a one eighth and a one-fourth medium job press, with a good supply, etc., and he intended to do his work by foot power; but found in the first week that he could not get orders out and was forced to put in an electric motor. Here was where the kindness and loyalty of the business public were in evidence, for inside of one year he had to double the size of his room and add new stock. At the end of two years, he finds himself forced to take still larger quarters in the M. T. Hudner building, on South Main Street, where he has put in a half medium jobber, and additional type and stock. His place is one of the neatest, best arranged job-rooms in the city, and he keeps from four to six hands at work. As an instance of his energy and skill, it may be stated that he set up, spaced, locked up and fed the press for the first work done in his shop, with his own hands, though not able to see a particle, it being a business card of his own establishment. Another example of the skill and proficiency of Mr. Leary may be found in the following fact: not long ago he had a call from Superintendent Bates of the public schools, who asked him if he could do a job for him, personally. Mr. Leary replied that he could, and Mr. Bates left the copy for a circular of which he ordered quite a number. Mr. Leary set up the copy, having it read to him, took a stone proof and sent it to the office of Superintendent Bates for correction and revision. It came back without a single correction, and Superintendent Bates was so enthusiastic over the accuracy of the work that he took occasion to show it to several of the teachers and pupils, as an instance of what might be accomplished by courage, energy and persistency in the face of disadvantage and adversity.

Mr. Leary's long experience in a book and job room has made him so familiar with the stock used, that he is enabled to buy all his own materials. He can tell by touch many of the grades of paper, the weight of card board, and buys by sample. When business is rushing, he helps regularly in the selecting and setting up of display lines, discerning the faces of the larger of the job type by touch, making designs for fancy work, and in many other ways. His work compares favorably with the best turned out in his home city and is superior to much of it."

Reverting to the status of our work, we believe with Dr. Howe and Dr. Campbell that it is desirable to dissociate the Educational Institutions of the Blind from charitable and humane institutions. It was this purpose that originated the Board of Education of the Blind of Connecticut, and not a desire to escape scrutiny, for, on the contrary, we court the closest

inspection. We feel confident the more the public knows of the work we are doing, the more willing it will be to come to our support.

As regards the financial embarrassment suffered by our Institution in the past, and its management, I shall content myself by referring your Excellency and the Public to the testimony of the eminent and well-known citizens who appeared before the Appropriation Committee of the General Assembly of 1899.

We here append a communication from Dr. H. P. Stearns, Superintendent of the Hartford Retreat for the Insane, and Lieut. Governor Ernest Cady, who, as auditors of the accounts of the Institution for the Blind, were in a situation to speak with knowledge :

"HARTFORD, CONN., March 6, 1899.

Hon. Joseph L. Barbour,

MY DEAR SIR :—Having been a member of the Advisory Board of the Industrial Home for the Blind in this city, and also one of the auditors for the last four years, it has been my intention to be present at the hearing before the Committee on Appropriations, which will relate to the interests of this Institution. As, however, I am to be absent from the State and cannot be present, I desire to say a word in behalf of its management.

I have been probably in a better situation than anyone else except my associate, Governor Cady, to understand and appreciate how much has been accomplished by the management, and with what limited means, and I unhesitatingly affirm that instead of careless financial management, deserving adverse criticism, those in charge of it are deserving of credit and commendation. It is my opinion that they have made the most of the means at their command, and that the results of their work, both in the Kindergarten and industrial departments, compare very favorably with those of any other similar institution in the country.

I further beg to say that in my opinion the State cannot afford to withdraw its support from the industrial department of this institution, which has already passed the period of its existence which always tests the character of its usefulness more fully than any other is likely to do. Moreover, I have no question as to the practicability of the industrial education of the Blind, especially when it is commenced during the period of adolescence or early adult life.

The brains of some blind people may not be capable of receiving an education which would render them self-supporting, but the same is true of some adults who are not blind; besides many hundreds of the blind have been educated so as to become self-supporting, and they nearly always take much pride and satisfaction in being able to support themselves.

A retrograde movement in the education of the blind would in my opinion be a serious mistake. It certainly would result in no saving to the State, and would be a loss, as it would necessitate doing the work over again

at some future time under reorganization, thus losing the advantage of experience already had and of disbursements already made.

I have the honor to be,

Very truly yours,

H. P. STEARNS."

From Ex-Lieutenant Governor Cady :

"The financial management has been excellent. I have been treasurer and am now auditor of the Board. The matter of profit should not enter into consideration in connection with the Industrial Home. The Board of Trustees exercises a close control over its finances."

The following is taken from a report of the hearing before the Committee on Appropriations of the last General Assembly :

"Rodney Dennis, President of the Conn. Humane Association and a trustee of the Institution for the Blind, indorsed the idea of educating the blind to be self-supporting and enlogized Mr. Cleaveland. He believed the business had been conducted economically and that the Institute should be supported by the State. The appropriation to liquidate all indebtedness ought to be made. Dr. Stearns and Ex-Lieutenant Governor Cady, the auditors, had assured him that the financial affairs were well managed."

"Rev. Joseph H. Twichell, President of the Advisory Board of the Institution, spoke in favor of the Institution. There are seven hundred blind people in the State, four hundred of whom would be without hope except for the State's beneficence. The scheme of educating the blind to be self-supporting had many adverse influences to overcome, especially the natural incredulity of people regarding the ability of blind persons to work. He commended the work of the committee on State receipts and expenditures and accepted all its conclusions except those which applied to the education of the blind. The report on this subject seemed to be influenced by the same incredulity. He endorsed the financial management and said that judging by the results, he knew of no example of better management. As to the concert troop, it has raised money and been a good educating influence among the people. He criticised the report of the committee, particularly its conclusion."

"Chief Justice Andrews, a member of the Board since its creation, said Mr. Cleaveland was the managing man, and he had confidence in him. With Governor Coffin, the witness had approved the appropriations and expenditures for buildings during the former's administration. He had given the matters connected with the Board such attention as he could, and was frequently in consultation with other members. The obligations incurred for buildings, machinery, furniture, etc., were incurred by authority of law, and he expected they would be provided for by an appropriation by the General Assembly of 1897. The Institution had a legal and just claim upon the State for the amount necessary to meet these obligations. He thought that a blind person would be in touch with blind persons and get into sympathy with them, a good reason for the appointment of Mr. Cleaveland on the Board. He knew that he was industrious and faithful and a man of high integrity, truthfulness and usefulness. The State should continue the work of educat-

ing the blind to become self-supporting. The work has not been going on long enough to permit of full development. He knew generally about the administration of the Board's affairs.

The Committee room was filled with the friends and supporters of the Institution, who urged the adoption, on the part of the State, of a policy calculated to foster and further the work undertaken in behalf of the blind.

Among the speakers who favored this policy were Ex-Speaker of the House, Allen W. Paige, Professor A. R. Merriam, of the Hartford Theological Seminary, Joseph L. Barbour, Judge Lynde Harrison, who endorsed the opinion given by Chief Justice Andrews, that the claim of the institution was legal and just.

Mrs. Emily Wells Foster gave a history of the work in this State from its inception.

Mrs. Foster, who is a member of the Board of Education for the Blind, had labored for years before the Board was created, and it was due to her untiring devotion to the cause, and to the persons interested by her, that the attention of the State was called to the neglected condition of the blind within its borders.

A communication was also read by Mr. Barbour from Mrs. H. L. Olmsted, who has been a co-laborer with Mrs. Foster and Mr. Cleaveland from the beginning.

A memorial from over twelve hundred of the leading citizens from the principal towns of the State, in support of a liberal policy towards the Institution, was handed the Committee."

The number of blind persons now under instruction as State pupils is sixty-five. Thirty at the Kindergarten, eighteen at the Industrial Home, seventeen at the Perkins Institution at South Boston, and one at the New York Institute.

In addition to this number, the Conn. Institute furnishes employment for sixteen adult blind people, and there are in the nursery department five, making in all twenty-one adults and children for whom there is no per capita allowance by the State

This Board is compelled to pay the same amount per capita to the Perkins Institution and the New York institute for nine months' board and tuition, which the Connecticut Institution receives for its pupils, although this Institution is compelled to furnish support for nearly half of them the entire year, besides caring for the homeless pupils during the summer months, returned to us from the Perkins Institution. The amount received by this Board from the State during the fiscal year ending September 30th was \$20,271.82, the same being disbursed as follows :

STATEMENT.

ASSETS.

Plant and Personal Property,	Kindergarten,	\$49,143.97
" " " "	Industrial Home,	30,469.20
Bills and Accounts Receivable,	Magazine Sub. List,	2,500.00
Stock on hand,	Industrial Dept.	450.00
" " "	Printing Dept.	150.00
		<hr/>
		\$82,713.17

LIABILITIES.

Mortgage Indebtedness,	Kindergarten Dept.,	\$13,700.00
" " "	Industrial Home,	4,850.00
Interest due on mortgage,		324.80
Bill and Accts. payable,		3,608.16
		<hr/>
		\$22,482.96

ASSETS OVER LIABILITIES. \$60,230.21

The foregoing statement is made on a basis of appraisement of our real estate and personal property made by H. B. Philbrick and Alexander Angus. In their return these gentlemen say that all personal property has been appraised at its salable value irrespective of cost, and that they have no doubt discount has been made of 40 or 50 per cent.

Concerning the qualifications of the above-named appraisers, we cite the following letter.

"HARTFORD, CONN.,

Mr. F. E. Cleaveland or To Whom it May Concern :

This is to certify that I have known for a number of years Thomas Sisson, H. B. Philbrick and Alexander Angus, and I consider them good judges of the value of real estate in the city of Hartford and should trust their appraisal in making loans, or estimating true values.

A. E. HART, Treas.,
Society for Savings, Pratt St.

Hartford, May 29, 1899.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Perkins Inst. for the Blind,	\$ 5,100.00
New York " " "	320.00
Connecticut " " "	13,475.00
Clothing and transportation of pupils,	820.14
Office expenses,	243.05
Traveling expenses of Sec'y and Asst. Sec'y.,	313.63
	<hr/>
	\$20,271.82

In addition to the above the Comptroller's report shows,

Amount paid out for salaries,	1,800.00
" " to auditors, Treasurer's bond, and to State benefi- ciaries under provisions of Chapter 116, Public Acts 1899,	1,314.95
	<hr/>
	\$23,386.77

HARTFORD, CONN., October 27, 1900.

This certifies that we have examined the accounts of F. E. Cleaveland, Treasurer of the State Board of Education for the Blind, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1900, compared them with the vouchers, and found them correct.

D. WARD NORTHROP,	}	Auditors of Public Accounts.
WALTER A. RILEY,		

STATEMENT BY C. H. JONES, GEN'L SUPERINTENDENT AND ACCOUNTANT
SHOWING RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
OF THE INSTITUTION

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1900.

To balance on hand Oct. 1, 1899,	\$ 144.16
" cash from Treasurer (State Receipts)	7,025.00
" " " Donations and Unclassified Sources	424.76
" " " Temporary Loans,	2,416.48
" " " Store and Workshop,	4,254.30
" " " Printing Department,	3,019.20
" " " Property,	42.75
" " " Concert,	72.87
" " " Magazine Extension Fund,	574.50
	<hr/>
	\$17,974.02
By paid on acct. Temporary Loans,	\$ 1,364.47
" " " " Store and Workshops,	4,725.99
" " " " Printing Dept.,	1,524.69
" " " " Property,	1,009.93
" " " " Concert Company,	120.98
" " " " Magazine Extension Fund,	1,085.20
" " " " Salaries and Wages,	
Household Dept.,	\$1,384.16
Printing Dept.,	2,407.76
Store and Workshops,	635.06
" " " " Current Expenses,	3,626.67
" balance on hand Sept. 30, 1900,	89.11
	<hr/>
	\$17,974.02

HARTFORD, CONN., October 27, 1900.

This certifies that we have examined the accounts of the Connecticut Industrial Home for the Blind, for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1900, compared the vouchers and find them correct. The balance in the hands of the Superintendent at the end of the year was \$89.11 and in the hands of the Accounting Treasurer \$100.00.

D. WARD NORTHROP,	}	Auditors
WALTER A. RILEY,		of
		Public Accounts

KINDERGARTEN ACCOUNT.

MRS. H. L. OLMSTED, ASST. TREAS., YEAR ENDING SEPT. 30, 1900.

	Dr.		Cr.
To cash Balance on hand Sept. 30, 1899,	\$ 604.19	By paid Interest on mortgage,	\$ 770.50
“ “ from contributions and entertainments,	3,304.86	“ “ Property,	500.75
“ “ “ State Rhode Island (pupil),	200.00	“ “ Salaries and service,	4,629.95
“ “ “ City of Derby for Annie Ryan,	142.00	“ “ Provisions, etc.,	2,112.89
“ “ “ Treasury (State money),	6,350.00	“ “ House furnishings and repairs,	892.58
		“ “ Fuel,	490.51
		“ “ Current Expenses (Insurance, Water, Light, Medical Attendance, etc.,)	766.27
		“ “ Petty cash,	245.56
		“ “ Balance on hand Sept. 30, 1900,	192.04
			\$10,601.05

HARTFORD, CONN., October 27, 1900.

This certifies that we have examined the accounts of Mrs. H. L. Olmsted, Assistant Treasurer of the Connecticut Institute for the Blind, relating to the Kindergarten Department, for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1900, compared them with the vouchers, and find them correct. Balance in the hands of the Assistant Treasurer at the end of the year was \$192.04, of which sum \$181.08 was on deposit in the United States Bank.

D. WARD NORTHROP,	}	Auditors
WALTER A. RILEY,		of
		Public Accounts.

RETROSPECT.

Looking back over the seven years since the Conn. Institution for the Blind was organized, and making up the record, showing the success or failure of those who are no longer pupils of the Institution, we find it to be as follows :

Two have died ; five, for various reasons other than the loss of sight, have profited but little by these instructions and may still be regarded as wholly dependent.

One, who is deaf and blind, is living with her parents and contributing to her support by work which she learned to do at the Institution.

One young man is a law student in the office of a leading law firm, and has already been made a Commissioner of the Superior Court.

Two are endeavoring to establish themselves as piano tuners, but as they have had but a short time since they left the Institution, there is nothing definite to report.

Six are contributing more or less to their own support.

Two women are married and are doing their own house-work.

Thirty-six are wholly self-supporting, some of whom are prospering beyond their expectations.

It will also be noticed that Mr. Charles Leary, whose story is told in this report, gives this Institution credit for setting him on his feet.

Is not this a record for our Institution that entitles it to the confidence and support of the General Assembly of the State? Laying aside the humanitarian features of the work, and thinking of the purely economic side, measured not only by what is saved to society, but by the influence of the example set by these thirty-seven blind persons, in thus caring for themselves, is there still room to ask, does it pay? This record should convince the most skeptical and obstinate of our opponents that our Institution has earned the right to live and prosper. We should no longer be left to struggle under a large mortgage indebtedness, without capital, and with credit impaired, on account of the failure of the legislature to provide for the discharge of obligations contracted by authority of law. The thousands of dollars we have raised and invested in buildings, machinery, etc., should be refunded to us, to be used as a working capital.

Covering the period of seven years—above the regular per-capita allowance—the State has given by special appropriation towards the entire plant,

including land, buildings, furnishings, and machinery but thirty-one thousand and two hundred dollars (\$31,200.) Compare this amount with the cost of any one of our Normal School buildings, or with the cost of any of the City Public school buildings of our State and it must be realized that the petitions of this single State Institution for the education and manual training of the blind with its sixty-five inmates in both branches, the Industrial Home and the Kindergarten, have been in accordance with the most economical calculation, and are but just.

We have sacrificed many hundred dollars during the last two years and have been at the mercy of the broom-corn trust because we have had no means with which to purchase supplies in the open market, at a time of year when we could have taken advantage of low prices. Broom-corn that could be purchased at the time the crop was being harvested at the rate of from eighty to one hundred dollars per ton, we have been compelled to purchase in small quantities at the rate of from two hundred to two hundred and twenty dollars per ton, and in marketing our product we have been compelled to compete with large concerns who were able to purchase a year's supply, when the market was at its lowest.

Even when the trust is not able to control the market, dealers invariably advance the price from forty to sixty dollars per ton, to small consumers, as soon as the year's crop has been disposed of.

For the past three years our printing department has been endeavoring to establish a magazine to furnish employment to our blind women. Like all new enterprises, the expenditure must exceed the income for a season; there must be a seed time before the harvest. While we were permitted to give concerts, we were obtaining from three to four hundred subscribers per month to our magazine and at this rate we would soon have secured a revenue which might have made our Institution self-sustaining, besides enabling us to wield a most beneficial and helpful influence, through the example of the successful blind, accounts of which are published in every number.

In July of the past year we were most fortunate in securing the services of the Rev. Chas. H. Jones, as superintendent, his daughter having been connected with our work for several years. Mr. Jones for twenty-four years has been principal of boarding-schools and academies in Maine, New Hampshire and New York State, so brings into our work an experience which is already bearing fruits and will be invaluable.

A statement of the receipts and disbursements of the Institution during the past year will be given by Mr. Jones, who has charge of the accounts.

Before closing this report we desire to bear testimony to our gratitude and love for our good friend Rodney Dennis, who, since the publication of

our last report, has joined the silent majority. Ever ready to respond to our needs, the blind people, as well as all others, in affliction, throughout the State, knew him as a wise counselor, a generous benefactor and a faithful friend. We are indebted to the untiring devotion of Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Olmsted, Mrs. William H. Palmer, Chief Justice Andrews, General Joseph R. Hawley, Rev. Joseph H. Twichell, Dr. Stearns, Ex-Lieut. Gov. Ernest Cady, Herbert H. White, and a score of others who have been our steadfast friends from the beginning; nor do we forget to render our gratitude and thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father who, when the heart sank and the mind was overburdened with anxious thought, gave us strength to struggle on; and from out the darkness in which we dwell showed us the lights along the shore.

Respectfully submitted,

F. E. CLEVELAND, Sec'y.



DONATIONS.

The Connecticut Institute and Industrial Home for the Blind gratefully acknowledges the following gifts and donations received during the past two years.

May a kind Heavenly Father richly bless the givers and bless the Institution in its use of the gifts.

Park Cong. Church,	\$ 29.77	A Friend,	1.00
Moosup, Conn.,	6.50	Elvira L. Hubbard,	4.00
A. H. Whitin, Peabody, Mass.,	5.00	Rev. Mr. Marsh,	1.00
Whatsoever Circle, King's		James Aldis,	3.00
Daughters, Newington, Ct.,	5.00	A Friend,	1.25
Beacon Lights, King's Daugh-		S. Pardee,	20.00
ters,	5.00	Hartford Woven Wire Co.,	5.00
W. C. Russell, Hartford,	5.00	Mrs. Pierpont,	1.00
Mrs. T. P. Scully, Rome, N. Y.,	.50	A Friend,	.75
Mrs. Beach,	2.00	" "	2.00
M. J. Lockwood, New London,	5.00	" "	1.00
Geo. H. Holmes, " "	5.00	Mr. Fitzgerald,	1.00
Essex Cong. C. E. Society,	3.00	Mary J. Lockwood,	5.00
Chas. J. McCullum, Warren, Me.,	1.00	Mrs. Chas. W. Havemeyer,	25.00
Levi Drake,	2.65	Miss Louise M. Lee,	5.00
C. Arnold, Washington, D. C.,	1.00	Mrs. Atwood Collins,	20.00
S. S. First Cong. Church, Gt.		Dr. E. W. Kellogg,	1.00
Barrington, Mass.,	10.64	Mrs. Stephen Terry,	10.00
Mrs. G. T. Plunkett, Hins-		Mrs. Wm. H. Lee,	100.00
dale, Mass.,	23.00	FOR CHRISTMAS OF 1898.	
Mrs. Sarah Porter, Farming-		Students of Morse Business	
ton, Conn.,	3.00	College contributed	9.10
Mr. Beach,	3.00	Friends from Maine and Mass.,	2.10
Mrs. W. H. Lee,	75.00	" " Hartford,	1.10
Wm. Jones, Togus, Me.,	4.00	Messrs Dennis, Batterson and	
Park Cong. Church, Hartford,	24.83	Forbes,	2.75
Miss Budy,	1.00	Mrs. Forbes, Mrs. Spencer	
A Friend,	.40	and Miss Bailey,	2.00
" "	.50	Loving Kindness Circle of	
" " Essex,	5.00	Kings' Daughters, South	
J. A. Walter, Pa.,	1.50	Church,	5.00
Mrs. Camp,	5.00	Mr. L. S. Harris,	2.00

Jardiniere, Mrs. Andrew Hewitt; Caps, Horsfall & Rothschild; Neckties, Gemmill, Burnham & Co.; Clothing, Emily Wells Foster; Bible Roll, Thomas Whittaker, Publisher, New York City; 10 Tickets to Old Folks Concert at fourth Church, Mr. W. B. Mucklow; Magazines, Shelf and Plant brackets, Mr. Marsh.

Mrs. Geo. T. Plunkett, Hinsdale, Mass.,	\$ 25.00	Miss M. E. Sanford,	1.00
A Friend from Wethersfield,	10.00	" Wohlfarth,	1.00
A Friend—for a special purpose,	5.00	A Friend,	1.00
Mr. A. Albert Wahlberg,	.75	3 Doz. Oranges, M. Banny,	
So. Cong. Church, Manchester,		1 " " Mr. Sykes,	
J. M. Williams, Treas.,	2.60	A Frosted Cake, Chas. Forst,	
Friends, by Miss Ledyard,		Half barrel flour, Confectionery and	
New Haven,	3.00	Holly, Mrs. W. P. Robertson,	
FOR CHRISTMAS 1900.		Clothing and Candy Boxes, Mrs. E,	
Miss L. A. Brainard, City,	5 00	E. Boyd.	

We also extend our sincere thanks to all the numerous stores who so generously distributed of their various goods to the comfort and enjoyment of our people.

Through the personal efforts of a kind friend, money has been contributed for a type-writer, desk, and chair, for one of the pupils, a blind daughter of a veteran. We feel very grateful to the friends who have made it possible for one of our young women to be thus well equipped to follow her chosen avocation, typewriting. The contributions for this purpose were as follows:

The Dept. of Com. W. R. C.,		Lakeville Friends by Miss	
by Mrs. Anna Loomis,	\$45.00	Susan R. Norton,	\$2.00
Rev. J. T. Plumb, Mrs. Harry		A Friend,	1.00
Bostwick, Mrs. Isaac Bris-		Mrs. G. H. Post,	1.00
tol, Mr. Seymour Green,		Mrs. S. C. Pierpont,	1.00
by Miss Lena A. Botsford,	5.00	Mrs. E. S. Hubbard,	1.00

A nice writing desk has also been received from Mrs. Isabella Beecher Hooker, and packages of clothing and other needed articles from Mrs. E. E. Boyd, Mrs. J. P. Allen and Mrs. Leila L. Hollister. From Mrs. William H. Palmer a fine sewing machine, and from Miss Lilla Burt and the Home Dept. of the Wethersfield Ave. Cong. Church, sewing materials. A friend has presented a half dozen silver forks.

We are under special obligations to Mrs. Cowles, of Farmington, who came to us in our time of need and gave four weeks of faithful work, sewing for the girls.

The Hartford Branch of the Woman's Board of Missions in convention at Park church, kindly remembered us with fruit and cake, while an unknown friend sent us a liberal supply of oranges and nuts for our Thanksgiving dessert.

Mr. J. F. Hathaway of West Somerville, Mass., has kindly donated 5 pictures for the walls, and Mr. George M. Clark 11 books for our library. Mrs. E. E. Boyd, Dr. Gladwin and Mrs. J. P. Allen have sent us magazines and Miss Helen Beers has given us a fine raised print Bible.

The management of "Chimes of Normandy" furnished us with 4 tickets, while Mr. F. J. Benedict furnished 27 tickets to an organ recital, Mrs. Virginia P. Marwick sent 42 tickets for a musical entertainment at Foot Guard Hall and the management of "The New Minister" at Parson's Theatre provided us with 21 tickets.

We desire to express our grateful appreciation of all the kindness shown us, both by word and deed, and trust that the Institution may ever prove that it is not unworthy of the benevolence of a generous public.



KINDERGARTEN DEPARTMENT

EDUCATE—"TO LEAD FORTH."

EDUCATION—"The result of educating in knowledge, skill or discipline of character, to prepare and fit for any calling or business, for activity and usefulness in life."—*Webster*.

The above defines plainly and beautifully the work of our school for blind children.

While our ideals and desires may not be fulfilled, our hopes and expectations I think we can claim have been fully realized. Certainly our labors for the year past have been prospered.

Our closing exercises in June were more satisfactory than upon any previous occasion. There was



THE FIRST NURSERY CHILDREN.



THE SAME CHILDREN FIVE YEARS LATER.

a sympathy between pupils, teachers and the large number of guests such as we have not experienced before. Our friends have learned to expect a great deal from us, and I think I am safe in saying our children and teachers gave a great deal. Progress was demonstrated from the first to the last number upon the programme.

The course of instruction has gone steadily forward. We have been fortunate in not having suffered any change in our teaching force, which we consider equal to the best.

The general health of the children at the Kindergarten has been

excellent. The absence of the usual percentage of cases of illness where such a number of children are assembled being considered remarkable. In February we had a siege of colds, and one case developed into pleural pneumonia, and for a number of days this little boy's life was in the balance. Even in our extreme anxiety we could not help feeling that the effect of his kindergarten life was



speaking comfort to us, while hour after hour and day after day—instead of the usual affright of delirium—he sang constantly “Onward Christian Soldiers” and many other of the hymns he was so accustomed to and so fond of. The little fellow recovered, and is a hearty and rugged little boy now.

It is with a thankful heart I feel warranted in reporting favorably of the



two children who in my last report were specified as backward children. We felt that unless there was very decided improvement, we could not conscientiously continue these children as State pupils the coming year. In one instance, and the most discouraging of the two, the change is very marked. We are surprised daily by some new development or evidence of reasoning power. It would be a long and sad story to describe the condition of this child as he came to us.

Even at the end of the first year his case seemed about hopeless, and at the end of the second year even more discouraging, taking into consideration the two years of care he had



KINDERGARTEN CLASS.

already had—but six months later—apparently he has been “led forth” at least well across the line which threatened him.

The attendance has been much more regular during the past year. The parents of the blind children of Connecticut are becoming more accustomed to having their children attend school; in fact, are beginning to look upon it as a matter of course and with appreciation. The two cases of retention at home, which special cases were brought repeatedly to the Governor's atten-



ZOOLOGY.

tion last year, are now in regular attendance. Return after vacations is much more prompt; for instance, the first night of this fall term, our school was a veritable “bee-hive,” twenty-eight of our thirty children

being with us. At the present time, Dec. 1900, we have thirty-five children, including the six in the Nursery.



SLOYD KNITTING.

NURSERY DEPARTMENT.

From personal observation and experience, having been convinced of the disastrous mental, moral and physical effects of neglect and ill usage upon

blind children before reaching school age, our work began by receiving such suffering children even in their babyhood. This branch of our work is unique; as far as I have been able to ascertain, it has not been undertaken by any other institution for the blind in the world. However, I am informed that Massachusetts is following in our footsteps, and is establishing a similar work. For three years past we have had from four to six of these babies in our Nursery Department, six at the present time. We feel there is no branch of our work that is of greater importance. To witness the change that a few months will make in these little ones, and to feel that we have had a hand in it, is truly blessed. "They are children every one, not prodigies, save as all children are prodigies if they come under the right influences." We feel that it is no longer a question—but that we have been able to demonstrate that, if we can get these children young enough, hardly any of them, by the time they have reached school age, can be called abnormal, except for lack of sight. These children of course, are not State pupils, and the care they receive in our nursery, before they enter the kindergarten, may in almost every instance be claimed to have saved for the State hundreds of dollars, as the nervous and shattered physical condition of some of these neglected children retards their progress in the kindergarten and primary department for a long period; in fact, we are fully satisfied that in some instances this early neglect or unintelligent care has resulted in placing them beyond our power to reclaim.

Hoping this work will make its way into the heart of our State, I submit this respectfully,

EMILY WELLS FOSTER, Asst. Sec'y.

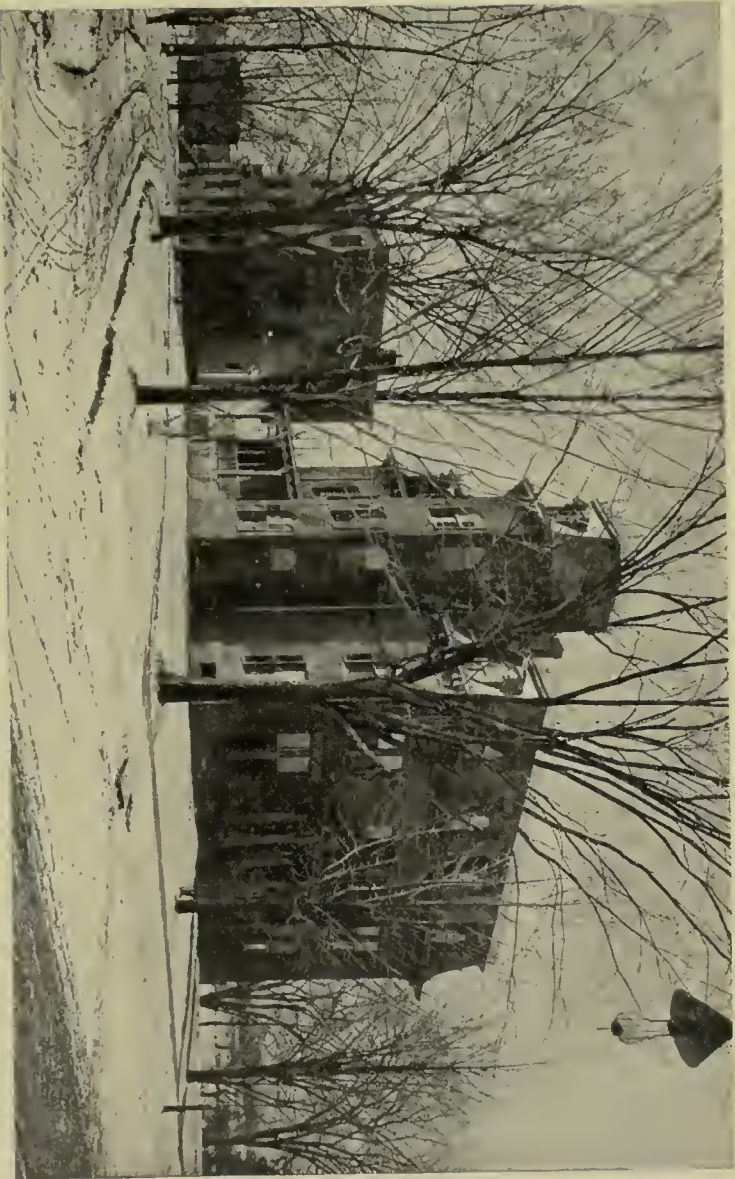


CONTRIBUTIONS.

Contributions to Connecticut Nursery and Kindergarten for the Blind
for two years ending September 30th, 1900, as per audited accounts of
H. L. Olmsted, Asst. Treas.

Andrews, Mrs. S. J.	\$ 17 50	Cheney, Mrs. L. R.,	25 00
Andrews, Miss Kate	2 50	Church, Mrs. S. G.,	3 00
Allen, Mrs. B. R.	15 00	Collins, Mrs. Atwood,	20 00
Allen, Mrs. J. W.	2 00	Collins, Miss Ellen,	40 00
Allen, Mrs. S. H.	5 00	Cooley, Mrs. F. B.,	20 00
Atherton, Mrs. Wm., Boston	25 00	Cooley, Mrs. F. R.,	5 00
Avery, Mrs. G. W.	2 00	Cooke, Mrs. J. W.,	3 00
		Colt, Mrs. E. H.,	75 00
		Cole, Mrs. Chas. J.,	4 00
Buck, H. J., J. S. & C. E. by		Coe, Mrs. C. C.,	4 00
Mrs. T. R. Buck, Wethersfield	10 00	Clark, Miss Mary,	50 00
Buck, Mrs. John R.	5 00	Cash	50 00
Brewster, Mrs. Chauncy B.	10 00	Cutler, Mr. & Mrs. R. W.,	10 00
Brewster, Mrs. James H.	2 00	Cone, Mr. & Mrs. Jas. B.,	10 00
Brainard, Miss L. A.	8 00	Chase, Mr. Geo. L.,	25 00
Barbour, Mrs. Lucius A.	10 00	Cutting, Mr. Ezra,	1 00
Barbour, Mrs. S. L.	1 00		
Brainerd, Miss	1 00	Davis, Dr. & Mrs. G. Pierre-	
Barney, Mrs. D. Newton	200 00	pont	75 00
Bartlett, Mrs. D. E.	5 00	Davison, Mrs. C. D.,	50 00
Beach, Mrs. George	15 00	Davenport, Mr. James,	5 00
Brainerd, Mrs. Austin	15 00	Davenport, Miss Julia,	2 00
Brace, Miss Emily M.	11 00	Davenport, Miss Martha,	2 00
Bennett, Mrs. Martin	10 00	Day, Miss Caroline E.,	35 00
Belden Mrs. Harriet, Litchfield	5 00	Dobson, Mrs. John S., Ver-	
Bingham, Mrs. E. H.	1 00	non	45 00
Bridges, Miss Fidelia, Canaan	10 00	Darwell, Rev. J. M., Nashua,	
Burnell, Miss C. J.,	7 00	N. H.	1 00
Bushnell, Mrs. Horace,	20 00	De Witt, Mrs. John E.,	2 00
Bowman, Miss Clara Lee,		Dunham, Mr. A. C.,	125 00
Bristol	2 00	Dunham, Miss M. E.,	25 00
Bulkley, Mrs. Geo. L.,	5 00	Dunham, Miss S. R.,	125 00
		Dunham, Mrs. S. G.,	30 00
Camp, Mrs. John S.,	45 00	Dunham, Mrs. Sylvester C.,	10 00
Camp, The Misses,	10 00		
Calhoun, Mrs. J. G.,	1 00	Ellsworth, Mrs. P. W.,	5 00
Carter, Mr. Burwell,	15 00		
Chamberlin, Mrs. F.,	5 00	Total	\$1,380 00

Brought forward,	\$1,380 00	Hillyer, Miss Clara E.,	100 00
Enders, Mr. John O.,	10 00	Hills, Mrs. Geo. F.,	15 00
Enders, Mrs. John O.,	10 00	Hooker, Mrs. B. E.,	10 00
Enders, Mrs. Thos. O.,	5 00	Jewell, Mrs. Lyman B.,	50 00
Elmi, Dr. Robert, Springfield		Jewell, Mrs. Chas. A.,	5 00
Mass.,	10 00	Jewell, Mrs. Pliny	3 00
Enos, Mrs. D. C.,	10 00	Jones, Mrs. F. C.,	4 00
A Friend, Canaan	5 00	Judd, Col. Edwin D.,	30 00
A Friend,	50 00	Kellogg, Mrs. E. W.,	2 00
A Friend of Babies,	75 00	Knons, Mrs. Jacob,	1 00
Ferguson, Mr. Samuel,	55 00	Latimer, The Misses, Brook	
Field, Mrs. Chas. H.,	3 00	lyn, N. Y.	30 00
A Friend, Niles St.,	20 00	Langdon, Mrs. Geo.,	2 00
Fitts, Mrs. Henry E.,	5 00	Lee, Mrs. W. H.,	100 00
Forbes, Mrs. Warren L.,	1 00	Lee, Miss Louise M.,	100 00
Forbes, Messrs F. H. & G. G.,	1 00	Loomis, Judge Dwight,	25 00
Franklin, Mrs. W. B.,	1 00	Loomis, Miss Jennie L.,	4 50
Gates, Mrs. E. N.,	1 00	Lyman, Mrs. Theodore,	20 00
Gay, Mrs. Julius,	5 00	Manning, Miss Augusta,	2 00
Goodman, Mrs. A. C.,	10 00	Marvin, Mrs. E. E.,	10 00
Goodwin, Mrs. C. S. and		Marvin, Mrs. John, Deep	
the Misses,	6 00	River	2 00
Goodwin, Mrs. C. S.,	5 00	Mitchell, Spencer, Knox &	
Goodwin, Mrs. Jas. J.,	400 00	Fredericka,	6 00
Goodwin, Mrs. J. N.,	10 00	Morgan, Mrs. H. K.,	10 00
Gordy, Mrs. W. F.,	2 00	Munyan, Mrs. C. G.,	20 00
Gross, Mrs. Chas. E.,	20 00	Mill, Miss Isabel L.,	1 00
Gross, Mr. Chas. E.,	5 00	Moore, Mrs. G. W.,	2 00
Grayson, Miss M. C.,	1 00	Ney, Mr. J. M.,	10 00
Hall, Mrs. John H.,	100 00	Niles, Miss F. Z.,	16 00
Hall, Mr. John H.,	50 00	Palmer, Miss Emelyn,	4 00
Haas, Mr. L. B.,	4 00	Palmer, Mrs. S. A., Albany,	
Hapgood, Mrs. M. H.,	1 00	N. Y.	20 00
Harrison, Mrs. A. S.,	7 00	Palmer, Mrs. W. H.,	75 00
Hillyer, Mrs. A. R.,	45 00	Pardee, Miss S. N.,	55 00
Hillyer, Miss M. B.,	10 00	Pardee, The Misses,	50 00
Hillyer, Miss L. T.,	10 00	Parker, Mrs. Lewis Darling,	3 00
Hooker, Mrs. E. W.,	20 00	Parsons, Mrs. Francis	25 00
Hooker, Mr. John,	2 00	Peck, Miss Cornelia C.,	50 00
Holcomb, Mrs. John M.,	1 00	Perkins, Mrs. Edward,	20 00
Hotchkiss, Miss,	2 00	Perkins, Mrs. Geo. C.,	20 00
Howard, Mrs. Chas. & Miss,	15 00	Perkins, Miss Mabel H.,	15 00
Howard, Miss Edith M.,	3 00	Plimpton, Mrs. A. S.,	5 00
Howard, Mrs. Jas. L.,	10 00	Pratt, Mrs. Waldo S.,	10 00
Hull, Mrs. A. E.,	3 00	Prescott, Mrs. W. E., Rock-	
Hunt, Mrs. A. L.,	1 00	ville	5 00
Huntington, Miss Maria,	3 00	Peck, Mrs. N. E.,	10 00
Huntington, Miss Sara B.,	6 00		
Hammond, Mrs. E. P.,	2 00		
Havemeyer, Mrs. Chas. W.,	25 00	Total	\$3,373 50



NURSERY AND KINDERGARTEN DEPARTMENT.

Brought forward,	\$3,373 50	Thompson Mrs. W. J.,	4 50
Robinson, Miss E. T.,	100 00	Thompson, Mrs. W. A.,	4 00
Root, Miss M. C.,	5 00	Towne, Miss S. E.,	1 00
Root, Mrs. Judson H.,	2 00	Townsend, Mrs. M. E., Meri-	
Rowell, Miss Harriet,	4 00	den	1 00
Roberts, Mrs. Geo.,	10 00	Tuttle, Miss Jane,	25 00
Russ, Mrs. Chas. T.,	15 00	Tucker, Mrs. Jas. Erastus,	1 00
Sawyer, Mrs. Geo. O.,	3 00	Van Ingen, Mrs. E. H.,	10 00
Seyms, Mrs. Geo. H.,	5 00	Vinton, Miss Cora C.,	2 00
Seymour, Miss Emily	10 00	Watkinson, Mrs. E. B.,	2 00
Skilton, Mrs. D. W. C.,	20 00	Warner, Mrs. Chas. Dudley,	10 00
Skinner, Mrs. W. C.,	10 00	Welch, Mrs. A. A.,	10 00
Shipman, Mrs. Nathaniel,	25 00	Welch, Mrs. H. K. W.,	5 00
Shepherd, Mrs. Geo. F.,	1 00	Welles, Mrs. John S.,	10 00
Smith, Mrs. Chas. B.,	50 00	Whaples, Mr. M. H.,	20 00
Smith, Mrs. Edw. A., Messrs		Whitmore, Mrs. O. H.,	10 00
Herbert Knox & Ernest W.,	80 00	White, Mrs. John H.,	10 00
Smith, Mrs. Chas. H.,	5 00	White, Mrs. M. O., Bridge-	
Smith, Mrs. Geo. Williamson,	10 00	port	1 00
Stone, Mrs. Jas. B.,	2 00	Whitney, Mr. Amos,	5 00
Stearns, Dr. & Mrs. H. P.,	10 00	Whitney, Mrs. Amos,	2 00
Sperry, Mrs. Henry T.,	1 00	Whitney, Mr. C. E.,	4 00
Stone, Mrs. Geo. F.,	2 00	Williams, Miss Augusta H.,	10 00
Stillman, Mrs. H. A.,	2 00	Williams, Mrs. Bernard,	25 00
Stillman, Miss Alice,	2 00	Williams, Mrs. Geo. G.,	400 00
Strong, Mrs. M. E. C.,	15 00	Woodcock, Miss A. M.,	5 00
Taintor, Miss Alice	20 00	Woodruff, Mrs. H. A.,	7 00
Taintor, Mrs. Henry E.,	10 00	Woodford, Miss Ada,	3 00
Taintor, Mrs. James U.,	30 00	Woodward, Mr. & Mrs. P. H.,	10 00
Talcott, Miss Mary K.,	2 00	Knous, Mrs. Jacob (additional)	6 00
Terry, Mr. Charles A.,	5 00	Total.....	\$4,433 00

NEW HAVEN.

Bennett, Mrs. Thos. G.	10 00	Shipman, Miss C. D.,	2 00
Dana, Mrs. J. D.	5 00	Smith, Mrs. C. F.,	2 00
Daggett, Mrs. Mary J.,	5 00	Tyler, Mrs. Morris F.,	5 00
Dexter, Mrs. F. B.,	5 00	White, Mr. Oliver S.,	20 00
Farnam, Mrs. Henry,	75 00	Winchester, Miss C.,	2 00
Hadley, Mrs. Arthur T.,	5 00	Yale Bethany Mission School,	52 00
Hollister, Mrs. Mary T.,	1 00		
Munger, Dr. & Mrs. T. T.,	2 00	Total from New Haven,	\$193 00
Shipman, Miss M. B.,	2 00		

NEW LONDON.

Crandall, Mrs. Herbert L.,	7 00	Palmer, Mrs. F. L.,	5 00
Chew, Miss Alice,	1 00	Stoddard, Miss S. A.,	6 00
De Buss, Mrs.,	1 20	Veets, Mrs. Carl,	50
Harris, Mrs. M. S',	50 00		
Palmer, Mrs. E. L.,	10 00	Total from New London,	\$80 70

WINDSOR LOCKS.

Coffin, Mrs. H. R.,	20 00	Horton, Miss Katherine	1 00
Chaffee, Mr. Charles E.,	10 00	Creeden, Rev. Father,	1 00
Chaffee, Miss Etta C.,	5 00	Porter, Miss.	1 00
Adams, Mrs. J. H.,	3 00		
Bell, Mrs. E. C.,	1 00	Total from Windsor Locks,	\$44 00
Coy, Mrs.,	2 00		

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Asylum Hill Congregational,		Mrs. D. W. Havens' Class,	
by weekly offerings,	381 07	North M. E. Ch., Hartford	30 00
Asylum Hill Cong'l Church,		Canaan Cong'l Church S. S..	9 73
S. S., Hartford,	116 65	Mrs. C. H. Carr's Class,	
Center Church, Hartford Pri-		Fourth Church, Hartford,	4 00
mary Dept.,	10 00	Mrs. J. J. McCook's Class,	
Chester Church S. S., Birth-		St. John's Ch., E. Hartford,	1 25
day gifts,	5 00	Trinity Ch., Hartford, S. S..	11 50
Farmington Ave. Church,		S. S. Class, M. S. Brooks,	
Hartford, Primary Dept.	5 00	Chester,	5 00
Cong'l Church, Washington,		Prospect Ave. Chapter House,	
Conn.,	10 00	Sunday School, Hartford,	6 37
Asylum Ave. Cong'l Church,			
Hartford, Primary Dept.	5 00	Total from Sunday Schools,	\$610 57
"Our Bible Class,"	10 00		

CIRCLES KING'S DAUGHTERS.

Hearty Workers, Farming-		Good Samaritan Chapter, Ju-	
ton,	10 00	niors,	14 00
Helps by the Way, Ch. of the		Cheerful Workers, Prospect	
Redeemer, Hartford,	5 00	Ave., Hartford,	25 00
Helpful Circle, Ch. of the		Union Circle, Rockville,	16 50
Redeemer, Hartford,	5 00	"Whatsoever" Circle, New-	
Louise Circle, Ch. of the		ington,	5 00
Redeemer, Hartford,	6 00		
Loving Kindness Circle,	3 00	Total King's Daughters,	\$89 50

OTHER CIRCLES, CLUBS, ETC.

Clover Leaf Club, West Hart-		Patmos Club, Watkinson	
ford,	5 00	Farm School,	8 55
Ladies Hebrew Deborah So-		Park Church Mission Circle,	
cietv,	10 00	Hartford,	10 00
L. L. T. Society,	16 50	Total "Other Circles, Clubs,"	
The Outing Club, By Miss		etc.,	
Ethel Dunham,	21 00		\$71 05

SCHOOLS.

West Middle School, Hart-		West Middle School, Kinder-	
ford,	5 00	garten,	75
		Total from Schools	\$ 5 75

ENTERTAINMENTS.

Fair by teachers and pupils of Woodside Seminary Hart- ford,	101 00	Play by Mary & Olive Watkin- son & friends, Hartford,	1 06
Mr. Marshall's Concert at Unity Hall, Hartford,	200 00	Fair by Ward Cameron & friends, Hartford,	2 69
Mr. Marshall's Concert at Windsor Locks,	50 00	Total from Entertainments	<u>\$354 75</u>

GRAND TOTAL.....\$5,882 32

CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDUSTRIAL HOME, AS PER AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF
H. L. OLMSTED, ASST. TREAS.

Allen, Mrs. B. R.,	\$ 15 00	Palmer, Mrs. W. H.,	35 00
Barney, Mrs. S. E., Farming- ton,	50 00	Prichard, Miss E. M., New Haven,	10 00
Bunce, Mrs. Jonathan B ,	45 00	Porter, Mrs. Josephine E. L.,	100 00
Case, Miss Ellen M.,	50 00	Parker, Mrs. R. B.,	10 00
Cleaveland, Mr. Livingston W., New Haven,	10 00	Sisson, Mr. Thomas,	15 00
Collins, Mrs. Atwood,	25 00	Smith, Mr. Charles B.,	50 00
Dennis, Mr. Rodney,	50 00	Smith, Mrs. Geo. Williamson,	10 00
Davison, Mrs. C. D.,	25 00	Talcott, Mrs. Seth,	50 00
Ferguson, Mr. Samuel,	25 00	Terry, Mrs. Stephen,	10 00
Field, Mrs. Charles H., & Sons,	3 00	Van Ingen, Mrs. E. H., New York,	10 00
Friends, by Mrs. Kendrick,	10 00	Washburn, Mrs. A. H.,	20 00
Havemeyer, Mrs. Charles W.,	25 00	White, Mr. Oliver S., New Haven,	10 00
Jacobus, Mrs. M. W.,	5 00	Woolsey, Mrs. Theodore Dwight, New Haven,	20 00
Lee, Mrs. W. H.,	125 00	Woolsey, Miss Edith,	2 00
Nichols, Mr. James,	25 00	Total Contributions	<u>\$870 00</u>
Newton, Mrs. R. W.,	5 00		
Page, Mrs. Charles W.,	25 00		

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NURSERY DEPARTMENT.

Allen, Mrs. S. H.,	10 00	Miss Rose Johnson and S. S. Class,	5 00
Beach, Mrs. C. C.,	5 00	Junior Circle King's Daugh- ters at Hampton, Ct.,	2 00
Chamberlin, Mrs. F.,	5 00	Fair by "The Select Seven" Club, at Mrs. J. H. Twich- ells's,	112 13
Drummond, Mrs. James, Bos- ton,	5 00	Fair at Mrs. W. H. Palmer's	72 15
Embury, Mrs. George,	15 00	Total,	<u>\$250 28</u>
Mite-box of Lyman Porter, New Haven,	1 00		
Mite-box at Kindergarten,	17 00		
Margeret Miles, to Dorothy,	1 00		

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

In addition to the foregoing contributions in money, the managers of the Nursery and Kindergarten, desire to acknowledge with thanks many useful articles, besides professional service and other valuable assistance.

We are still especially indebted to Dr. S. B. St. John and his associate, Dr. Waite, to Dr. G. C. Segur, Dr. Joseph E. Root, Dr. N. J. Goodwin and his partner, Dr. Barrett.

Miss Louise M. Lee continues to provide instruction in Sloyd carpentering. This work is not only of great practical service in teaching the children to use their hands, and in developing their muscles, but is a source of much pleasure to them.

Miss Lee has also given a type-writer to the Kindergarten, which some of the children enjoy using.

The managers of the Hartford School of Music have kindly invited our children to attend their interesting recitals—a favor which is highly appreciated.

Mrs. Marwick gave much pleasure to the teachers and children by sending them twelve tickets to her Concert.

Mrs. Samuel Cowles of Farmington, has greatly assisted the Kindergarten matrons by devoting many weeks to sewing for the Institution.

The Hartford Courant Co., kindly continue to send us their daily paper.

From Mr. Elliott C. Foster, the Kindergarten has received the gift of a Graphophone and rolls, which affords the children much amusement.

DONORS OF CLOTHING.

Hartford Branch Needlework Guild	Louise Circle, King's Daughters,
117 new garments,	Church of the Redeemer,
Wethersfield Branch Needlework	Breed, Mrs. George,
Guild, 100 new garments,	St. Agnes Guild, St. John's Church,
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friends,	Ferguson, Mrs.
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King's Daughters,	Coyt, Mrs.
Pasco, Mrs. Raveloe,	Chapman, Miss,
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Church,	Porter Mrs.
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Young Ladies, St. Mary's Church,	Waldorf, Mrs.
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Robertson, Mrs. W. P.	Weldon, Mr. S. A., Bristol,
Friends in West Cornwell, 24 barrels	Hayes, Mr. S. W.
of apples and vegetables, by Mrs.	Sharpe, Mrs. H. J.
H. M. Pratt & Miss Rogers.	Smith, Mr. J. W., Easthampton,
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West Middle School Kindergarten,	Havens, Mrs. D. W.
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Goodwin, Mrs. Francis,	Church of Redeemer,
Chapman, Mrs. Charles R. & friends,	Ladies Box Society, Church of Re-
Randall, Mrs. F. E. Lakeville,	deemer,
	Bowers, Mrs. A. L.

DONORS OF BOOKS, TOYS, ETC.!

West Middle School Kindergarten,	Twitchell, Mrs. Willis I.
The G. & C. Merriam Co., Springfield,	Spring, Miss Helen, Springfield,
White, Mrs. Herbert H.	S. S. Class, Mrs. C. M. Phelps, Hol-
Parker, Mrs. John D.	yoke, Mass.
Foster, Mrs. E. W.	Gross, Mrs. Charles E.
Havens, Mrs. D. W.	Hart, Mrs. A. E.
Northwest School Kindergarten,	Hawkes, Mr. Clarence, Hadley, Mass.



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MRS. EMILY WELLS FOSTER, Secretary.

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(Charged with investment and custody of all gifts exceeding \$200 in amount.)

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EX-GOVERNOR, LORRIN A. COOKE, Winsted,



FORMS OF BEQUEST.

I give, devise and bequeath to the Connecticut Institute and Industrial Home for the Blind at Hartford, Conn., (here describe property devised or bequeathed).....

.....

.....

to be used by the trustees of that corporation to promote its interests at their discretion.

I give, devise and bequeath to the Connecticut Institute and Industrial Home for the Blind at Hartford, Conn., for the sole use of the Kindergarten for the Blind the sum of..... Dollars.

I give, devise and bequeath to the Connecticut Institute and Industrial Home for the Blind at Hartford, Conn., for the sole use of the Industrial Home the sum of.....Dollars.

